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Identical letters dated 4 January 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the letter dated 4 January 2004 from Mustafa Osman Ismail, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan, concerning the incitement, support and training by Eritrea of the outlaws in Darfur region (western Sudan) as part of Eritrea's continuous attempts to destabilize the Sudan and the ongoing peace process (see annex). In that regard, I would like to refer you to the previous complaints of my Government against Eritrea addressed to the Security Council.

I would highly appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 156, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer B. **Manis**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the identical letters dated 4 January 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]
4 January 2004

In accordance with our obligations and responsibilities, with our faith in the principles of collective security and the peaceful settlement of disputes and with all the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, we should like to draw your kind attention to the fact that the State of Eritrea continues with its regrettable attitude of seeking to undermine security and stability in the Sudan.

In keeping with our above-mentioned obligations, we have diligently informed you of the attacks perpetrated by Eritrea against the Sudan along the latter's eastern borders. In this regard, I should like to refer to our letter dated 7 October 2002 addressed to the President of the Security Council and concerning Eritrean attacks carried out against the Sudan on 3 October 2002 (document S/2002/1117).

It is clear that the Government of Eritrea persists in its reckless conduct, its hostile attitude and its disregard for the principles of good-neighbourliness, peaceful coexistence and the peaceful settlement of disputes between nations.

Eritrea was vexed by the Sudan's determination to achieve peace and secure a final and lasting settlement to the domestic conflict in the Sudan, a determination that won the full support of the United Nations and the entire international community, as well as the direct support of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The prospects for the settlement look promising and we expect to reap the benefits therefrom in the near future.

The Government of Eritrea therefore decided to enlist the help of armed groups of outlaws operating in the Darfur region of Western Sudan, groups that can be classified as terrorist groups. It made contact with them, set up camps to train their members, hosted their leaders, provided them with encouragement and funding, supplied them with arms and furnished them with Eritrean travel documents to facilitate their movements. The Government of the Sudan has evidence to show that Eritrea is training the outlaws and providing them with support, encouragement and funding. The public statements of officials in Eritrea furthermore confirm their involvement in these activities.

We are in no doubt that everyone agrees with us that, by these regrettable acts of hostility, Eritrea is seeking to hamper the current peace efforts in the Sudan and collective international support for those efforts. The actions of the Eritrean Government are nothing but a malicious and hostile attempt to undermine the sincere and tireless endeavours that the Sudan has made and continues to make, both internally and in cooperation with the entire international community, to build confidence with armed and non-armed opposition groups in the Darfur region. This attempt at sabotage is entirely consistent with the hostile attitude that the Government of Eritrea has adopted, since it was established to the present time, towards all of its neighbours, without exception, and shows its determination to undermine security and stability in the Horn of Africa.

The ruling junta in Eritrea has never distanced itself from its bloody past of suppressing freedoms, violating human rights and physically eliminating its opponents. This is why it is isolated today from the prevailing international trend of rejecting violence in international relations, combating terrorism and terrorists and refusing to provide them with safe havens, training and funding. By its actions, Eritrea has made it possible for terrorists to attack peaceful civilians in Eastern and Western Sudan and to terrorize them, steal their property, burn their villages and deny those affected by those incidents in that region access to emergency aid.

The Government of the Sudan wishes to draw attention to the gravity of these hostile practices, which are characterized by an arrogant determination to undermine security and stability in the Sudan, and to their adverse consequences for security and peace in the region as a whole. It calls on you to take the appropriate measures to discharge the responsibilities of the United Nations for the maintenance of international security and peace.

(*Signed*) Mustafa Osman **Ismail**
Minister for Foreign Affairs